

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 187011  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02  
SSM-05 SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02  
SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 /094 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:LHW  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND  
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER  
H - MR. FLATEN  
SSM - MR. MCANDREW  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/IAI - MR. KORN  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM  
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN

-----043518 250322Z /14

O 250113Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
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PAGE 02 STATE 187011

USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR  
DOD  
JCS WASHDC 0000  
CIA WASHDC 0000  
USICA  
NSC WASHDC 0000  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

UNCLAS STATE 187011

CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 24, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 24. FYI  
ONLY, OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING MORE DEFINITE ABOUT WHERE THE  
SECOND MEETING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE  
MIDDLE EAST (WILL BE)?  
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PAGE 03 STATE 187011

A. ON THE QUESTION OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN MEETINGS, WHICH  
THE SECRETARY HAS INDICATED THAT HE EXPECTS AND HOPES WILL  
BE HELD, I DO NOT HAVE AT THIS POINT A DEFINITE PLACE FOR  
THE MEETINGS. WE ARE STILL HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE  
ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTS ON BOTH THE TALKS THEM-  
SELVES AND THE POSSIBLE LOCATIONS.

I WILL CONFIRM THE OBVIOUS; THAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT A  
NUMBER OF SITES, INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY DISCUSSED IN  
PUBLIC, THE SINAI FIELD MISSION SITE. BUT I JUST HAVE TO  
REPEAT THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE ONGOING AND NO  
DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN.

GIVEN THE PRESS PLAY OVER THE WEEKEND ON A NUMBER OF  
THINGS, THE QUESTION HAS TO ARISE DO WE EXPECT THE MEETING  
TO TAKE PLACE. I CAN ONLY SAY, AS THE SECRETARY HAS SAID,  
THAT WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT THAT IT WILL BE HELD AND WE ARE  
CONTINUING EXCHANGES WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS ON THIS.

IN THE WAKE OF THE STATEMENT I JUST READ ABOUT THE ASEAN  
CONFERENCE, I HAVE TO AT LEAST WARN YOU AWAY FROM THE

AUGUST 3RD DATE WHICH I SAW REPORTED IN AT LEAST ONE PLACE. I THINK I SAID THIS ON FRIDAY, I WANT TO REPEAT THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THE MIDDLE EAST MEETING WOULD BE HELD ON THAT DATE BECAUSE OF THE ASEAN CONFERENCE, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON.

Q. IS IT DEFINITELY ESTABLISHED THAT THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE AREA?

A. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT I DON'T HAVE A FINAL SITE TO OFFER YOU HERE AND IF A FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN I AM NOT AWARE OF IT.

Q. WHAT I AM ASKING IS THAT DURING THE DISCUSSION IS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 187011

ANY CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO GENEVA, OR RETURNING TO LEEDS, OR THAT SORT OF THING?

A. IT IS MY OWN IMPRESSION THAT A MEETING WOULD BE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. THE SECRETARY SEEMED UPSET YESTERDAY ON THE BROADCAST ABOUT COMMENTS THAT SADAT MADE ABOUT ARTHUR GOLDBERG. SADAT MADE COMMENTS ABOUT OTHER INDIVIDUALS. ARE YOU CONCERNED THAT THERE IS A GROWING OVER-PERSONALIZATION OF THE COMMENTS AND THE PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I WOULD REPEAT OUR GENERAL POSITION WHICH IS THAT WE THINK IT IS FAR MORE USEFUL FOR THE NEGOTIATION AND DISCUSSIONS TO TAKE PLACE THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. THAT, WE THINK, WOULD BE HELPFUL ALL THE WAY AROUND, AND THAT IS NOT AIMED AT ANY ONE PARTICIPANT OR PARTY OR SIDE. WE SIMPLY HOPE THAT WE ALL CAN CONTINUE IN THIS PROCESS OF MOVING OUR DISCUSSIONS FORWARD SO THAT WE CAN HAVE ANOTHER SET OF FORMAL MEETINGS. I WANT TO STRESS, IN ALL THIS PUBLIC DIALOGUE, THAT BOTH SIDES CONTINUE TO SAY THAT THEY WANT TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THIS LONG PROBLEM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I THINK THAT IS THE FOCUS WHICH WE WOULD ENCOURAGE ON ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING OURSELVES.

Q. DO YOU HOPE THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL ATTEND THIS MEETING, AS WELL?

A. I THINK WE HAVE SPOKEN TO THAT SORT OF CIRCULARLY IN THAT THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF SOME KIND OF MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES MET THERE. FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 187011

IDEA, I BELIEVE, IF CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES, THE DEFENSE MINISTERS AS I RECALL, WOULD GO THERE. AND THE SECRETARY SAID IN RESPONSE TO THAT, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA TO HIM.

I AM NOT AWARE OF BEING ANYWHERE THAT FAR DOWN THE ROAD YET TO EVEN BE ABLE TO SPECIFY WHO WOULD BE PARTICIPATING. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR CONVERSATIONS, IS THE BEST THING I CAN TELL YOU.

IN THAT REGARD, YOU KNOW THAT ROY ATHERTON IS OUT THERE AND THEREFORE AT LEAST A GOOD PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE THROUGH HIM. HE IS NOW IN AMMAN AND WILL NEXT BE GOING TO ISRAEL AND THEN AFTER THAT TO CAIRO. SO I HOPE THAT SOME THINGS CAN DEVELOP ALONG THAT LINE.

Q. HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY SOFTENING OF THE ISRAELI POSITION IN THE LAST FEW DAYS REGARDING THE WEST BANK, SPECIFICALLY THE STATEMENTS FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE WEST BANK IN FIVE YEARS, AND THAT IF ANY OF THE ARABS PUT FORWARD A PROPOSAL CALLING FOR A TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE ON THE WEST BANK, THEY WOULD CONSIDER THAT AS WELL?

A. I DON'T HAVE AN ANALYSIS OF THOSE STATEMENTS, TO BE QUITE FRANK WITH YOU. IN GENERAL, I AM TRYING TO STAY AWAY FOR THE TIME BEING FROM EVERYBODY'S STATEMENTS WHILE WE DO HAVE THESE DISCUSSIONS, TO BE PERFECTLY CANDID ABOUT IT. I DOUBT THAT I WILL HAVE SOMETHING, BUT LET ME TAKE YOUR QUESTION AS TO WHETHER I HAVE SOME KIND OF CHARACTERIZATION OF THAT.

Q. ON ROY'S TRAVELS, YOU MENTIONED IN THE ANSWER THAT WAS POSTED THE OTHER DAY THAT IN ADDITION TO MOST OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HE MAY ALSO BE GOING TO A  
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PAGE 06 STATE 187011

FEW OTHER COUNTRIES. COULD WE ASSUME THAT THAT MIGHT INCLUDE SYRIA, WHICH WASN'T NAMED OR EVEN COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE AREA LIKE MOROCCO?

A. I CAN'T DO MUCH SPECULATION. AFTER THE CAIRO STOP, HIS FURTHER SCHEDULE IS GOING TO DEPEND ON THE RESULTS OF THAT SWING. AS TO WHERE HE MIGHT GO, I DON'T KNOW. I

DON'T HAVE IT. AS OF THIS DATE, WE JUST DON'T KNOW AND I  
COULDN'T SPECULATE.

3. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WERE TAKEN AND POSTED AT  
THE NOON BRIEFING, JULY 24.

SOFTENING OF ISRAELI POSITION ON THE WEST BANK?

Q. DOES THE U.S. SEE IN RECENT STATEMENTS BY ISRAELI  
LEADERS A SOFTENING OF THE ISRAELI POSITION ON THE WEST  
BANK?

A. WE ARE NOW ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELI  
AND EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTS ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL  
MEETING IN EARLY AUGUST, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE  
USEFUL TO COMMENT ON OR CHARACTERIZE SUCH STATEMENTS BY  
ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN LEADERS.

SINAI SITE FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING:

Q. ARE PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS NOW BEING MADE TO READY  
THE SINAI FIELD MISSION FOR A POSSIBLE VANCE-DAYAN-KAMEL  
MEETING?

A. -- AS THE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY, THE SINAI FIELD MISSION  
IS A POSSIBLE SITE, BUT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON  
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 07 STATE 187011

WHERE THE MEETING WOULD BE HELD.

-- ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS, WE ARE REVIEWING WHAT ARRANGE-  
MENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE, BUT WE WOULD AGAIN POINT OUT  
THAT THIS MATTER HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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